

# Appointments to Outside Bodies

**Council**

**Date: 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2018**

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Author: Director of Law and Democratic Services

Wards: All

Parishes Affected: All

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## **1. Purpose and Reasons**

- 1.1 To consider a request from the PPS Board and England's Economic Heartland Strategic Transport Forum to appoint representatives to serve on those bodies.
- 1.2 The delivery of effective, accountable and transparent decision making by the Council directly links to its overall policy and objectives.

## **2. Recommendations**

Council is recommended to:

- 2.1 To approve the appointment of Jannie Freeman, Doctor Jeffrey Hardy and James Ward to the Public Power Solutions Board for a two year term of office.
- 2.2 To support the Leader of the Council's attendance at England's Economic Heartland Strategic Transport Forum for the remainder of the Municipal Year 2017/18.

## **3. Detail**

Public Power Solutions Board

- 3.1 A request has been received from Public Power Solutions to appoint James Ward (Financial Controller PPS) as Executive Director, Finance Director and Janine Freeman and Doctor Jeffrey Hardy as Non-Executive Directors.
- 3.2 The PPS Board recently made the decision that there was a requirement to strengthen and add resilience to the Executive Directors Team by appointing a further Executive Director.

Proposed Executive Director - James Ward

- 3.3 James Ward has been working with PPS since 2010 and has been acting Finance Director since 2013. The Board recommended the appointment of James Ward as an Executive Director.

Proposed Non-Executive Directors

- 3.4 The existing Non-Executive Directors include one External Non-Executive Director and three Council Members (Councillors Oliver Donachie, Mary Martin, and Peter Watts), the Board felt additional Renewable Energy expertise was needed. With the changes in the renewable energy market and the focus on the

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next steps for the SRF facility, the Board believed that there is a need to bring in market expertise to the Board.

- 3.5 In November 2017, an advert was placed to appoint two Non-Executive Directors to the Board, this attracted over 200 applications. Following short-listing, seven candidates were interviewed for the roles. The interview process included input from the Executive and Non-Executive Directors Team and the wider PPS management.

- 3.6 The Board unanimously recommended the appointment of two candidates Janine Freeman and Doctor Jeffrey Hardy.

## Janine Freeman

- 3.7 Janine initially started her career as an auditor with Deloitte. She has since held Senior Energy Executive Positions at National Grid and UK Power Reserve and brings significant experience and knowledge of the renewable energy market including battery storage, renewable and decentralised energy systems and waste to energy, as well as a high-level of commercial acumen and access to our primary markets.

## Doctor Jeffrey Hardy

- 3.8 An interface between academia, policy and industry in the energy and chemical sector. As well as developing new emerging technologies, he has a technical background through his time with OFGEM. Dr Hardy is currently driving energy policy through a part-time position with BEIS and is working at Imperial College examining energy system change and business model innovation.

- 3.9 Neither candidate has been offered the role of Board Chair. The existing Board Chair will remain in post for another 3-4 months after the new Non-Executive Directors join the Board to allow for a smooth transition. A decision will then be made as to whether either candidate is suitable to the role of Chair. Both have confirmed that they are happy to take on this role if the Board feel that this is appropriate.

- 3.10 Subject to Council approval and the completion of the formal recruitment process, both candidates will be offered a 2-year Non-Executive Director position with the company (until Annual Council in May 2020/21). The role would include a minimum commitment of 15-days per annum. This would include the attendance at the monthly Board Meetings and Sub-Committees, the Annual Business Planning Away Day and any special meetings. To date, PPS has not exceeded the 15-day commitment.

## England's Economic Heartland (EEH) Strategic Transport Forum

- 3.11 Subsequent to Cabinet's resolution in respect of "Devolution – Moving Forward" (Minute 70, 2015/16 refers), the Leader of the Council has been meeting with

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local authorities promoting the Oxford-Milton Keynes-Cambridge corridor. It is expected that these meetings of the Strategic Transport Forum will lead to the creation of a Strategic Transport Body (STB), which would open up access to additional Government funding for infrastructure. Membership of that formal body, which would include a subscription fee, would be a matter for further consideration by Cabinet.

- 3.12 To enable Swindon to have a role in the negotiations about creating the STB and help shape its priorities to support the Borough, Council is invited to support the Leader of the Council's attendance at the Forum for the remainder of the 2017/18 Municipal Year.

## **4. Alternative Options**

- 4.1 No alternative option is proposed.

## **5. Implications, Diversity Impact Assessment and Risk Management**

### Financial and Procurement Implications

- 5.1 There are no financial procurement implications to this report. Any Councillor Basic Allowance arising from attendance at these meetings will be met from existing budgets.

### Legal and Human Rights Implications

- 5.2 Legal and Human Rights implications have been taken into account in preparing this report. It is considered that the report's recommendations are consistent with Convention Rights.

### All Other Implications (including Staff, Sustainability, Health, Rural, Crime and Disorder)

- 5.3 None

### Diversity Impact Assessment

- 5.4 A Diversity Impact Assessment is not required as no change to a service is proposed.

### Risk Management

- 5.5 A Risk Management Assessment is not required.

## **6. Consultees**

- 6.1 The Director of Finance (Section 151 Officer) and Director of Law and Democratic Services (Monitoring Officer) are consulted in respect of all reports.

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**7. Background Papers**

7.1 None

**8. Appendices**

8.1 None